

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 567

By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to recognize James Alfred Clodfelter on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those persons who in their years of work have served the General Assembly with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, James Alfred Clodfelter is one such estimable person who has served with probity for thirty years with the Legislative Council Committee and its successor agency, the Office of Legal Services for the Tennessee General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Jim Clodfelter was born in Alcoa, Tennessee in the waning days of the great depression to the late Nish and Willie S. Clodfelter. He attended Alcoa's public schools and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from the University of Tennessee in May of 1952; and

WHEREAS, the young ROTC 2nd Lieutenant entered active service upon graduation, learning the arts of bivouac in the wilds of South Alabama, and emerged as a 1st Lieutenant in May of 1954; and

WHEREAS, Jim Clodfelter enrolled in the University of Tennessee College of Law in September of 1954 and received his LL.B/J.D. degree in December of 1956; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clodfelter took a position with the City of Alcoa in 1957 and served that community as City Judge, Recorder and Treasurer, as well as Trustee and Secretary of the Employee Retirement System. During his tenure in Alcoa city government, he acquired a vast storehouse of knowledge and practical experience in the operation of municipal and county government which would serve him well throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, seeking new experiences, Jim Clodfelter accepted the position of Assistant Professor and Law Librarian at the U. T. College of Law in January 1969. At the urging of then Senator Houston Goddard, he applied for the position of Legislative Attorney with the Tennessee Legislative Council Committee, and began his new career there on July 1, 1969; and

WHEREAS, for the next eight years Mr. Clodfelter brought his knowledge and experience to bear in drafting legislation and staffing study committees, impressing legislators, staff and lobbyists with his keen grasp of issues and excellent writing ability; and

WHEREAS, when the Legislative Council Committee was abolished in 1977, Jim Clodfelter was named Director of one of the successor staff agencies, the Office of Legal Services of the Tennessee General Assembly; over the next 22 years his considerable talents and vast store of practical knowledge of the workings of government were heavily utilized by legislators, administrative officials, and lobbyists; and

WHEREAS, his innovative ideas and positive influence have left their mark upon the legislative process in the state of Tennessee, and his accessibility and friendly demeanor were for many years a hallmark feature of the Office that he guided; and

WHEREAS, Jim Clodfelter is widely known and respected among professional legislative staff officers across the nation, many of whom, both active and retired, count him as a friend; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clodfelter is an avid reader of a variety of literature and has for many years enjoyed the performing arts, both here in Nashville and as a participant in theater tours to New York City; and

WHEREAS, Jim Clodfelter truly represents the epitome of the consummate professional and principled attorney, yet he is even more exemplary as a person: He is a loyal, trustworthy friend and compassionate human being who has won the respect and affection of the staff he led, the colleagues with whom he worked, and the legislators whom he served; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we extend to the honorable James Alfred Clodfelter, Esq., our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.